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LOGAN COUNTY MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL DRUG FRAUD CHARGES

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Terry Tomblin, 44, of Mount Gay, Logan County, West Virginia was sentenced yesterday to five years probation by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston on federal drug fraud charges. Tomblin pleaded guilty in November 2010 admitting that he had obtained hydrocodone from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (“VA”) while purposefully failing to disclose that he was obtaining the same controlled substance from local providers which violated the terms of his agreement with the VA. From April 2005 until March 2010, Tomblin was a patient of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Huntington, where he signed controlled substance agreements for non-cancer patients. In the agreement, the defendant agreed to receive all of his prescribed hydrocodone from the provider listed in the agreement, i.e. the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to not seek the medication from any other health care providers. During the same time period, Tomblin admitted to obtaining hydrocodone prescriptions from local medical providers in the Logan County, West Virginia area. The defendant did not disclose the hydrocodone prescriptions that he received from other medical providers to the VA. Tomblin further admitted to signing a controlled substance agreement with the VA on May 7, 2009 and did not disclose that he had received hydrocodone from another health care provider on April 21, 2009. The defendant further admitted to receiving hydrocodone pills from both the VA and other health care professionals until March 2010 and purposefully failed to disclose the information to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

“This conviction marks a major breakthrough in our fight against prescription drug abuse,” said U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin. “Many addicts amass mountains of pills by cheating the system. They visit one doctor after another and collect a pile of prescriptions for the same drug. That kind of doctor-hopping adds mightily to the flood of pills entering our region.”

“This case is the first prosecution in our district for illegally collecting multiple prescriptions,” Goodwin continued. “It represents a critical first step in cutting off one source of abused drugs. We will build on this victory in the months ahead as we fight the prescription drug crisis on every front.”

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General and the West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Monica Dillon handled the prosecution.

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